

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

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P R 261015Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1685
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5645

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, KS
SUBJECT: DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION

1. PRIMIN KIM CHONG PIL IN CONVERSATION JULY 26 WITH
ME REVIEWED CURRENT DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION.
IN GENERAL HE VIEWS CURRENT SITUATION AS MORE STABLE
AND QUIET THAN IT HAD BEEN FOR A LONG TIME, BUT HE
WAS PERTURBED BY VETO JULY 25 OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
TESTIMONY BILL. (SEE SEPTEL).

2. JUST PREVIOUS TO MY MEETING WITH HIM, PRIMIN HAD
MET WITH DRP LEADERSHIP AND PRESIDENT PARK IN EFFORT TO
RETRIEVE DAMAGE DONE BY VETO. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY UNHAPPY
WITH VETO. (HIS AIDE HAN TOLD ME THE PRIMIN HAD
TRIED, DURING CABINET MEETING, TO TURN OFF LAWYERS'
EFFORTS TO VETO BILL, BUT HAD BEEN OVER-RULED BY
PRESIDENT WHEN HE WAS RECOVERING FROM RECENT MINOR
SURGERY.) FORMULA WORKED OUT IS IN EFFECT TO
WITHDRAW VETO AND ARRANGE FOR AMENDMENT OF SPECIFIC
CLAUSE CONSIDERED UNCONSTITUTIONAL AT NEXT
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION IN SEPTEMBER. ON THIS
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BASIS, DRP LEADERSHIP WILL URGE KIM YONG SAM TO

TAKE HIS SOUTHEAST ASIA TRIP, DEPARTING JULY 27.
PRIMIN WAS CONFIDENT THAT NDP WILL ACCEPT THIS FORMULA
AND WAS SYMPATHETIC TO NDP STRONG DISSATISFACTION
WITH VETO.

3. PRIMIN RECOGNIZED THAT DESPITE CURRENT STABILITY
IN DOMESTIC SCENE, THERE IS RESTIVENESS UNDER SURFACE,
PARTICULARLY AMONG STUDENTS. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE AMNESTY
OF ABOUT 1,000 OR MORE PRISONERS WHO HAD SERVED TWO-
THIRDS OF THEIR SENTENCE ON AUGUST 3, BUT EXPECTED NO
OTHER MAJOR MOVES ON POLITICAL SCENE. IN THIS CONNECTION,
HE MENTIONED THAT BOTH KIM CHI HA AND KIM KWAN SUK
CASES WOULD NOT BE DEALT WITH SEVERELY, PARTIALLY IN
RECOGNITION STRONG CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN BOTH
CASES.

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06 JUL 2006

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